

How ARP 760 Has Prepared me for Praxis in Higher Education

Kyle Hamlin

Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education; San Diego State University

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My experience through doing an internship has taught me a lot of what I need to know when I am working on the job and in the area I plan on working in. My internship was in the student life office at San Diego State University, specifically working with Student Organizations and Activities. At the beginning of the semester, there was plans for me to get experience working with advising students and working with student organizations, but some things were adjusted as another area of growth I was interested in, started to take priority, and expand beyond what little bit I had initially thought I was going to do. As the semester progressed, I helped a little bit with the SDSU GO! Field Trip initiative and ended the semester with helping plan and coordinate the field trips for Spring 2022. I also was thrown into our online student organization and event platform Presence.io where my duties and experience went from building out and trying to execute an area for tracking student engagement called Experiences. The department is now ready to push these out to the general study body at the start of Spring 2022. I also took initiative to investigate one other area of Presence.io that we aren't fully using and started to compile that to explore next semester and hopefully implement at the beginning of Fall 2022.

Through all this work, and the plans for what I could help with in the future also let to some proposed changes to staffing in the departments, but also adapted to other departments under the same umbrella of student life. With some options brought up, I helped initiate the discussion of what a hybrid role would look like, where half time working in one department, and the other half time working in another department. Because of this, I brought up the idea of trying to work collaboratively between the Residential Education Office and the Office of the Dean of Students (ODoS) (formerly Student Life and Leadership). With this proposal, I am expected to be brought on as an emergency hire in ODoS and work in both departments for the

remainder of my time at SDSU as a graduate student. This proposed change and staffing adjustment is proposed to continue into the fall as well.

Reflecting on my time through this program requirement, and all that I have learned and experienced, I can pinpoint that this internship helped me understand the policies and procedures of Student Organizations and Activities, and how that is applied to student engagement and their experience (PLO 1, PLO 2, PLO 3, PLO 5, PLO 7, and PLO 8). Specifically, I built a basic assessment of the SDSU GO! Field Trips with a feedback form where I was able to engage in meaningful outcomes-based assessment (PLO 5). The more I work in this area, I feel more energized to explore student development (PLO 1) and helping mitigate student success and equity issues (PLO 4) as it comes to student engagement. I also plan to develop my networking skills in my equity-mindedness work (PLO 8) where I will collaborate with campus partners and individuals that have differing ideas and backgrounds to best help the students I will be working with.

Reflecting on my original program goals I had set, I have not completed any that I had set for myself in this course. At the end of my first year, I re-evaluated my goals I had set and revised some of them to be more attainable. From my new goals, the goal that I met within this course was “to leave a lasting impression or change in the SDSU community by opening discussion around employment opportunities shared between departments or areas.” As shared before, I have initiated a proposed staffing change that is opening up what staffing looks like between departments and looking at collaborative work. The other revised goal that I am hoping I achieve at the conclusion of this semester is that of “[planning] to obtain a full-time role at San Diego State University prior to graduating with my degree.” My role that is being explored for Spring Semester will be a full-time role, but I am hoping this goal is met by being offered a full-

time role at SDSU starting either Summer 2022 or Fall 2022. Time will tell where I end up at the conclusion of my graduate program.

References

SDSU PELSA. (2021). *Curriculum*. ARPE | College of Education | SDSU.

<https://education.sdsu.edu/arpe/ma-student-affairs/curriculum>